

February 23, 1967

Captain W. F. Dyson
Administrative Services Bureau
Dallas Police Department

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE (1)
JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Sir:

The attached news paper clippings taken from the February 23, 1967 issue of the Dallas Morning News are in regard to SUBJECTS current investigation into the assassination of PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

Respectfully submitted,

C. T. Burnley
C. T. Burnley, Detective
Criminal Intelligence Section

Det. 2965-73

Probe Figure Found Dead

DA Says Arrest of Pilot in JFK Death Planned

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — David W. Ferrie, an important and strange figure in Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was found dead in bed Wednesday. Garrison said he had planned to arrest Ferrie next week.

"The apparent suicide of David Ferrie is the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important

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individuals," Garrison told a news conference.

Coroner Nicholas Chetta said Ferrie's death was due to a ruptured blood vessel in the brain, but that further tests were being made.

Garrison said Ferrie, a pilot, had been under continual observation and his information "had caused us to become increasingly concerned . . . about the possibility of his killing himself."

"Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved

in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Because of this, at a meeting at my house this morning, we had reached a decision to arrest him early next week. Apparently we waited too long."

Dr. Chetta said a note was found in the dining room of Ferrie's cluttered apartment which said, in part:

"To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable and on the other hand everything that is loathsome."

The coroner said Ferrie, about 45, was born with a weakness of one blood vessel at the base of the brain. When this ruptured, it caused massive hemorrhage, he added.

However, because of the circumstances and the note, a full autopsy was ordered to check the possibility of suicide. The body was found nude, with a sheet pulled up to the chest.

Ferrie had told friends he was suffering

from encephalitis (sleeping sickness). Dr. Chetta said he had hypertensive cardiovascular disease—high blood pressure.

Garrison told reporters the "primary reasons for the planned arrest of Ferrie was because we felt we had reached a point where we had enough information to move."

Ferrie became "increasingly more and more nervous as the investigation progressed," said Garrison.

"Although my office has been investigating Ferrie intensively for months, we have not mentioned his name publicly up to this point," Garrison added. "The unique nature of this case now leaves me no other course of action."

Asked if he had any reason to believe anybody but Lee Harvey Oswald took part in the actual assassination, Garrison replied:

"I have no reason to believe at this point that Lee Harvey Oswald killed anybody in Dallas on that day."

Det. 2965-73A

Investigation Called Big Joke by Ferrie

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)— David W. Ferrie, a pilot who did private investigating and listed himself as a psychologist, had complained that John F. Kennedy had him "pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." He called it a "big joke."

The New Orleans district attorney, in an investigation that started last October, has been trying to prove that a conspiracy was hatched here that "culminated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy" in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison promised arrests and convictions, but kept details secret.

THE PROBE has stirred an international furor because it backed up critics of the Warren Commission, who claim that the assassination of the President could hardly have been the work of just one man.

The official commission report said Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy — and there was no credible evidence to show anyone else was implicated.

Ferrie was interrogated by Garrison's office last November for the second time in connection with the assassination. The first was in 1963.

"We arrested Ferrie 72 hours after John F. Kennedy was assassinated," said Garrison. "The arrest was on the basis of information supplied out of the office. I talked Ferrie over to the FBI on Nov. 25, 1963. As a matter of record at that time, we suggested the FBI take a detailed statement."

Garrison said he had never seen a copy of the FBI interroga-

"THERE ARE 40 pages relating to the interrogation and report on Ferrie which are in the National Archives in Washington," he said. "Only four of these pages are unclassified."

Ferrie repeatedly denied that he ever knew Oswald, a former New Orleans resident.

Ferrie said he and two companions went to Texas from New Orleans the afternoon of the assassination. He insisted it was a pleasure trip.

"I went to Houston, Galveston and back to Alexandria, La.," he said, adding that he had given a "mischievous" account of the trip during the first interrogation.

Ferrie said it was fruitless to search for an accomplice to Oswald because "My assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially anything as delicate as a conspiracy to kill."

A POLICE OFFICER outside Ferrie's apartment, shortly after officers arrived Wednesday to take away the nude body, pointed to a blond youth with long sideburns and said, "He found him."

The youth was hustled away by police. Before he left, he told a reporter he didn't find the body, didn't know Ferrie and "just happened to wander in."

Ferrie was odd looking. An explosion several years ago cost him his hair and eyebrows. He wore a shaggy toupee and massive eyebrows.

Police records showed he was fired as an airline pilot after being arrested in Jefferson Parish



—ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
David W. Ferrie, subject in investigation of Kennedy slaying.

(below), which adjuds New Orleans, on a morals charge. The case never went to trial.

Garrison said his investigation has unearthed evidence not available to the Warren Commission. He would not elaborate.

FERRIE, A NATIVE OF CLEVELAND, Ohio, has lived in New Orleans the last 15 years.

Oswald lived in New Orleans during the summer of 1963.

Ferrie said the FBI first became interested in him when a New Orleans man identified as Ed Vohle reported he served with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit under Ferrie.

Ferrie said Vohle was in the Missouri Squadron and "I was in the Lakewood Squadron."

Told that his companion was the Garrison investigation

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made "him a national celebri-
ty," Ferrie replied.

"What will being a national
celebrity get me? Thirty-five
cents and being a national celeb-
rity will get you a hamburger.
I want to be left alone to my
flying."

Ferrie ran a private flying
service from a coffee shop at
New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

"HE WAS ALWAYS very nice
and never got out of line," a
waitress who declined to give
her name recalled Wednesday.
"He was intelligent and real
serious about flying, because
that's all he ever talked about."

Garrison said he is confident
his investigation will prove Pres-
ident Kennedy's assassination
was the culmination of a con-
spiracy in New Orleans.

The district attorney began his
probe in secret last October. The
New Orleans States-Item re-
vealed the investigation Friday,
an action Garrison denounced as
a serious hindrance to his work.

Garrison said Saturday he ex-
pects to arrest at least five per-
sons, though the arrests "are
most certainly months away."

Ferrie told the States-Item
that while he was in Texas in
1960, his home was entered by
district attorney's investigators
who carted off books, photo-
graphs and personal belongings.

FERRIE SAID he heard nothing
more about the matter until
last November when he was
summoned to Garrison's office.
He said chief investigator Louis
Ivan told him Garrison had
"positively uncovered a plot in
New Orleans to assassinate Ken-
nedy."

He said he was released and
not contacted again.

It was learned, however, the
district attorney's office later
had two men maintaining sur-
veillance of his apartment.

In Fort Worth, Mrs. Marguerite
Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey
Oswald, said: "I've always
been amazed that the man (Ferrie)
was arrested and questioned,
but not interviewed by the
Warren Commission. He is not
listed in the Warren report
as testifying in person before the
commission members . . .

"I'm shocked and dismayed
that another life may have been
foregone for lack of a thorough
investigation."

Other Lines

Exhuming Of Body Requested

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—The
county solicitor was asked
Wednesday to exhume the body
of a man whose brother said
he believed he was being
harassed by "agents" following
the assassination of President
John F. Kennedy.

The man, Thomas Henry Killam,
died March 17, 1964, amid
shattered glass on a downtown
Pensacola street.

The Pensacola News-Journal
said Killam was married to a
stripper who worked for Jack
Ruby in Dallas. The paper also
said that Killam worked as a
house painter with a man named
Jack Carter, who had roomed
in Dallas at one time with Lee
Harvey Oswald.

Killam's brother, Earl, asked
the solicitor to exhume the body
to determine the cause of death.

Police listed the death as
probable suicide, but the coro-
ner had called the death acci-
dental, the newspaper said.

Solicitor Carl Harper said he
took a statement from Killam
Wednesday morning and would
decide after an investigation
whether to exhume the body.
He would not discuss the state-
ment or his planned investiga-
tion.

Earl Killam was quoted as
saying his brother told him that
"agents" and "plotters" visited
him repeatedly after the assassi-
nation, when the brother was
living in Dallas while his wife
worked for Ruby as a stripper,
the News-Journal said.

Finally, the newspaper quoted
the brother as saying Thomas
Killam left Texas and returned
to Pensacola to live with his
mother.

But he still complained of be-
ing constantly questioned by the
"agents" about the presidential
assassination, the brother was
quoted as saying.

Killam moved to Tampa and
worked for three months, but
still felt that he was being
harassed by the "agents," the
brother's story continued.

A newspaper held, and was
where he was found dead . . .
his brother: . . .
"I'm a dead man. I've run
as far as I'm going to run." . . .
The newspaper said Killam
never identified the "agents"
specifically.

Harper said he had not heard
of any controversy surround-
ing the Killam death until he
contacted by reporter . . .
Marker of the Pensacola . . .
paper Wednesday night.

Harper said he had not spoken
to Dist. Atty. James Garrison
of New Orleans, but planned
to talk to him as part of the
investigation.

Thomas Killam's wife, . . .
had been associated with . . .
for 15 years, the brother . . .
reported as saying.

Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald,
the man the Warren Com-
mission said killed President
Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22,

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